
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A valve plug head assembly comprising:

- (A) a means for holding a valve plug head to a valve plug stem, having a plug stem base and a plug stem base cavity, wherein said means for holding further comprises a plug head band, fitted between said valve plug head and a recess in a side wall of said plug stem base cavity, said plug head band having a first side and a second side and having said second side fitted inside said recess in said plug stem base cavity; and a band retainer fitted over said plug head band ~~and fixed by a device to said plug stem base, said device being selected from the group consisting of a bolt, a pin, a screw, a weld, a braze, and a clamp;~~ said valve plug head having a generally flat surface extending across and located in said plug stem base cavity and held in contact by said means for holding with said plug stem base and said plug head having a general convex surface extending outward from said plug stem base and said plug stem base cavity to thereby provide a means for said valve plug head to entirely close off a flow path through a valve assembly, and
- (B) a means for fastening said means for holding to said valve plug stem, wherein said means for fastening further comprises a means selected from the group consisting of a bolt, a pin, a screw, a weld, a braze, and a clamp.

14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (previously amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13,
wherein said first side of said plug head band is greater in height than said second
side of said plug head band.
17. (cancelled)
18. (previously amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13,
wherein said plug head is further comprised of a material selected from the group
consisting of structural ceramics, cermets, cast irons, silicon irons, white irons,
martensitic steels, and CrCoFe alloys.
19. (previously amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13,
wherein said plug head band of said means for holding further is in contact with
said valve plug head and said valve plug stem and wherein said plug head band is
composed of a ductile material selected from the group consisting of titanium and
its alloys, zirconium and its alloys, niobium and its alloys, titanium-niobium
alloys, alloy steels, carbon steels, iron-base superalloys, stainless steels, nickel
and its alloys, nickel-base superalloys, copper based alloys, cobalt alloys, cobalt-
base superalloys, aluminum and its alloys, magnesium alloys, and tantalum.
20. (previously amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13,
wherein said band is composed of a first material and said plug head is composed
of a second material and where said first material is different from said second
material.